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| PLENARY MEETING | | **Addendum 30 to Document WTDC-17/21-E** |
|  | | **18 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: English** |
| Arab States | | |
| Draft WTDC-17 Declaration | | |
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| **Priority area:** - Declaration | | |

DECLARATION (version proposed by TDAG)

**MOD** ARB/21A30/1

Draft WTDC-17 Declaration

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017), which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT④SDGs),

recognizes that

*a)* telecommunications/ICTs are a key enabler for social and economic development; and consequently for accelerating the timely implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) vision beyond 2015, and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in **UNGA Resolution A/70/1 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"**;

*b)* telecommunications/ICTs also play a significant role in various areas such as health, education, agriculture, transportation, energy, governance, finance, commerce, poverty reduction, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change mitigation and adaptation; particularly in least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;

*c)* access to modern, secure and affordable Telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, services and applications offers opportunities for improving peoples' lives and ensuring that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality;

*d)* widespread conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems through the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities, competitiveness and reliability as well as encourage global integration and trade;

*e)* telecommunication/ICT services and applications can be life-changing catalyst for individuals, communities and societies at large, but they canalso increase the challenge of building confidence, trust and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

*f)* broadband access technologies, broadband-enabled services and ICT applications offer new opportunities for interaction among people, for sharing the world's knowledge resources and expertise, for transforming peoples' lives and for contributing to inclusive and sustainable development across the world;

*g)* despite all the progress made during past years, the digital divide still remains, and is compounded by disparities and inequalities in access, usage and skills between and within countries, in particular between urban, rural and underserved areas, as well as in the availability of accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs services, particularly for women, youth, children, elderly, indigenous people and persons with disabilities and specific needs;

*h)* ITU is committed to improving people’s lives and making the world a better place throughtelecommunications and ICTs;

i) Widespread access to the services and applications of telecommunications/ICT, provides a better digital transformation and inclusion which enables new socioeconomic benefits for all,

therefore declares that

1 ITU-D will adapt and reinforce the existing links between the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets through the regional initiatives, ITU-D contributions to the ITU Strategic Plan and ITU-D Action Plan, in order to support global evolution;

2 universally accessible, secure and affordable telecommunications/ICTs are a fundamental contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and drive the development of the national and global economy as well as building a global information society;

3 innovation is essential in ushering high-speed, high-quality telecommunication/ICT infrastructures and services;

4 with convergence, policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet access, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory enabling policies, legal and regulatory environments, including common approaches to conformance and interoperability that promote competition, increase consumer choices, foster continued technological and service innovation and provide investment incentives at national, regional and international levels;

5 Increased participation of developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1) in ITU activities relevant to bridging the standardization gap and digital divide is needed in order to ensure that they experience the economic benefits associated with technological development, and to better reflect their requirements and interests in this area;

6 Effective and efficient spectrum management is critical issue for policy-makers, regulators, operators, broadcasters and other relevant parties, given the increasing demands for scarce radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources;

7 new and emerging technologies such as big data, cloud computing and the Internet of Things should be harnessed for purposes of supporting global efforts aimed at further development of the information society;

8 digital literacy and ICT skills, as well as human and institutional capacity in the development and use of telecommunications/ICT networks, services and applications should be enhanced to enable people to contribute to ideas, knowledge and human development;

9 measuring the Information Society and providing the proper indicators/statistics as well as analyzing the regulatory and industry trends are important for both Member States and the private sector with the former being able to identify gaps that need public policy intervention, and the latter, in identifying and finding investment opportunities;

10 an inclusive information society should take into account the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups, it should also create opportunities for women and girls in order to ensure gender equality;

11 building trust, confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, for peaceful purposes and development including protection of personal data and privacy, requires further regional and international cooperation and coordination among governments, relevant organizations, private companies and other stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities;

12 cooperation between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries are encouraged to bridge the digital divide as this paves way for technical cooperation, technological and knowledge transfer, and joint research activities and socioeconomic development;

13 public-private partnerships need to be further strengthened in order to identify and apply innovative technological solutions and financing mechanisms for inclusive and sustainable development;

14 innovation should be integrated into national policies, initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable development and economic growth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, between developing countries and between developed and developing countries to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer;

15 international cooperation should be continuously enhanced amongst ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, and other partners and stakeholders to pursue sustainable development, through the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

16 ITU membership and other interested parties should cooperate in implementation of Connect the 2020 global telecommunication/information and communication technology goals and targets.

Accordingly, we, the delegates to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC‑17), declare our commitment to accelerate the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, services and applications for building the information society and achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in UNGA Resolution A/70/1 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) calls upon ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and all other partners and stakeholders to contribute towards the successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

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1. These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition [↑](#footnote-ref-1)